

medicines is far greater than anybody can picture. I have in my mind within the last two weeks the deaths of two children in different places from eating tablets which were thrown in at the doors of dwellings. The effect was fatal. I say it advisedly that the first medical men of the day disapprove of drugs and patent medicines. One of the leading medical men in England, who had been the official physician of the Queen, addressing a body of medical students, said the experience of the past few years teaches us that those bottles you see on the shelves will in a short time be all swept away, and the duty of the doctor will be to teach the method of preserving life so that it can be maintained in its highest condition without the use of a single drug. That is the utterance of an eminent member of the profession who has had a long experience. Nearly 50 years ago, my attention was directed to this subject by the fact that one of the leading medical men in this country refused to pass my life on an application for a policy of insurance. I immediately took issue not only with that medical man, but with many other members of the profession, and from that date until now, the subject has been engrossing my attention because of that very fact. I have discussed it over and over again with medical men, and a large majority of them have admitted to me that the evil effects of drugs were unlimited, but that the people demanded them. If simple prescriptions or advice were offered it was not accepted. The people were not educated up to the highest standard. A body of legislators well up in life, like this Senate, ought to pause in dealing with this subject. I do not hesitate to say that 10,000 babies are killed every year in the province of Quebec from the use of morphine. I have been tracing it up. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, so universally used, is being put up by a medical man in the city of Montreal, and sold everywhere through the province. I have been told by one who has made an inquiry of the chemist and who has taken some interest in the subject, that the people must have the drug. A labouring woman who has not the time to look after her baby, puts it in a cradle and if the baby

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

cries, gives it soothing medicine. The child goes to sleep, and she finds that to be the quickest way of keeping her child quiet, and finally a funeral is held. Any one who inquires into the subject, must come to the conclusion that the use of opium at the present day is doing a vast amount of harm. Other nations have wakened up to the effect of it and are legislating to remedy the evil. It is all very well to say that opium has been used for centuries, but it is none the less an evil. What right minded person could defend the policy of Great Britain, in forcing on China the opium of India in order that the natives of India might make money on the destruction of the Chinese? The world is getting wiser, and Canada ought not to be behind in the race of civilization and enlightenment. Should we put money into the scales as against human life? We cannot escape the responsibility. I do not wholly approve of this Bill, because, as the hon. senator from Kingston says, it is loaded up with poison which may be put in prescriptions. The hon. senator from Edmonton, who is a doctor of large experience, says that he finds opium is doing a vast deal of harm to human life, and when he asks that in any prescriptions where opium or morphine is used, it should appear on the label, I ask is that going too far? Surely when we are giving our children drugs, we should know what drugs we are giving them. Our responsibility is greater than many imagine. The hon. senator from Kingston drew attention to the drugs which, under this Bill, are free to all. Opium is perhaps no worse than many of the other drugs in the list, but it is more generally used. Its influence is so delusive that it is not noticed. It does not throw the patient into a paroxysm of any kind, but is soothing in its effect. The patient goes asleep and sleeps for hours, and the natural conclusion of those who do not understand the drug is that it has done good. Yet this Bill is opposed because all that is asked for is that if a medicine contains opium, the proportion of opium in it shall be stated on the label in order that the public may know what they are getting. Is that a concession that is too much to ask?